NOTE XXXIV.

REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS FROM NEW GUINEA

BY

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(Plate 6).

The following Reptiles and Batrachians were collected in N. E. New Guinea, in the neighbourhood of Astrolabe bay, by Mr. Kunzmann, one of the collectors of Mr. J. R. H. Neervoort van de Poll, and now make part of the collections of the Leyden Museum.

Reptilia.

Lacertilia.

1. *Gehyra mutilata* Wiegm.
   Two specimens.
2. *Lepidodactylus lugubris* D. & B.
   A single male specimen.
3. *Gecko vittatus* Houtt.
   Three specimens.
4. *Lialis Burtonii* Gray.
   Five specimens.
5. *Gonyocephalus papuensis* Macleay.
   One specimen, differing from Boulenger's description [1])

1) G. A. Boulenger, Catal. Lizards, I, p. 297, 1885.

and agreeing with Méhely's specimen from the same locality [1]) in having the greatest diameter of the tympanum as large as the eye-slid; moreover our specimen (a very large one, measuring 200 mm. from the tip of the snout to the vent, and 680 mm. from the vent to the end of the tail) has the strongest spines of the nuchal crest much smaller than the diameter of the tympanum. It is of a light brown colour, the upper part of the nape and a spot on each side of the neck being dark brown, and a somewhat crescent-shaped whitish spot bordering the dark spot from behind and running on the shoulder.

6. *Varanus prasinus* Schl.

Two specimens.

7. *Varanus indicus* Daud.

One young specimen.

8. *Tiliqua gigas* Schneid.

Several adult, semi-adult and young specimens.

9. *Lygosoma tigrina*, n. sp. (Plate 6, figs. 1 and 1*a*) [2]).

Body elongate, limbs rather short, the distance between the end of the snout and the fore-limb is contained one and three-fifths in the distance between axilla and groin. Snout elongate. Lower eyelid without transparent disk. Nostril pierced in a single nasal. No supranasals. Anterior loreal single, in contact with the nostril, frontonasal, praefrontal, second loreal and first and second upper labial. Rostral forming a short suture with the frontonasal which is broader than long; praefrontals forming a short median suture. Frontal quadrangular, longer than broad, broader than the supraocular region and as long as the frontoparietals and the interparietal together, in contact with the first supraciliary and the two anterior supraoculars. Four supraoculars followed by a very small fifth one, seven supraciliaries, first largest, in contact with the first supra-

1) L. v. Méhely, Beiträge zur Herpetology von Neu-Guinea, in Természetrajzi Füzetek, vol. XVIII, p. 130, 1895.

2) The demarcation between the scales so clearly visible in our figure is in reality scarcely visible because of the lustre of the scales.

ocular, frontal, praefrontal, second loreal and praeocular. Frontoparietals and interparietal distinct, the latter somewhat larger than the former; parietals forming a suture behind the interparietal. No nuchals. Fifth and sixth upper labial beneath the eye, from which they are separated by a row of seven suboculars, the second and fourth of these being rather large, wedging between the upper parts of the fourth and fifth and fifth and sixth upper labial. Earopening oval, a little smaller than the eyeopening, without auricular lobes. 34 rows of smooth, glossy scales around the middle of the body, both dorsal series largest. A pair of very little enlarged praeanals. The adpressed limbs nearly meet. 18 rows of lamellae under the fourth toe. Colour (in spirits) whitish with reddish brown cross-bands on the upper parts, these bands are broader than the interspaces, the first on the head behind the frontal, covering the supraorbital region, the posterior part of the head and the nape with exception of a light spot on either cheek; this band is followed by seven bands on the body, an eighth one just opposite the vent, and 13 to 14 cross-bands on the tail. Another band below the eye continuing on the lower labials and running in a longitudinal direction till a little beyond the earopening. Upper parts of fore- and hind-limbs reddish brown.

One specimen.

This species may be compared with *L. Woodfordii* Blgr.

10. *Lygosoma jobiense* Meyer.

Eight specimens. In five of these specimens the praefrontals form a suture together, in the other three specimens the frontal forms a suture with the frontonasal. All agree in having the back of a brown colour, with dark spots forming irregular cross-bands; as to the larger dark spots below and above the ear and above the shoulder, these spots are very distinct in some specimens, whilst they are very indistinct or even missing in other specimens.

11. *Lygosoma smaragdinum* Less.

One specimen.

12. *Lygosoma fuscum* D. & B.

Four specimens; in one of them the frontoparietal is fused with the small interparietal shield.

13. *Lygosoma callistictum* Ptrs. var. (Plate 6, figs. 2 and 2*a*).

Three specimens, very much agreeing with one another, but showing some small differences. One of them (the figured one) is somewhat slenderer than both the others and its frontal more elongate. As to the coloration, the figured one and one of the others are of a metallic hue, bluish green in the first one, bronze-coloured in the latter; the third specimen is brown without metallic hue. The former two have a somewhat lighter line running along the middle of the head and nape. In all the specimens the scales have a darker centre encircled by a lighter border.

These specimens very much agree with *L. callistictum* Ptrs. but differ from it in having 4 instead of 5 upper labials before the large subocular, moreover they have no bicarinate dorsal scales although the scales show an indication of stripes. I give here a description with a figure of this beautiful species.

Habit lacertiform, the distance between the end of the snout and the forelimb is contained one and a third in the distance between axilla and groin. Snout rather long, pointed. Lower eyelid with an undivided transparent disk. Supranasals very small, widely separated. Frontonasal broader than long, forming a suture with the rostral and with the frontal. Frontal longer than broad, in contact with the two anterior supraoculars. Four supraoculars followed by a small shield that may be regarded either as the fifth supraocular or as the last supraciliary shield. Eight to nine supraciliaries, the first one [1]) in contact with the first supraocular, second loreal and praefrontal. No interparietal; parietals forming a suture behind the large frontoparietal; a pair of nuchals and a pair of temporals border the parietals. Four upper labials before the large

1) In our figure this shield is somewhat too large.

subocular. Earopening oval, about as large as the transparent disk, auricular lobes if present very small. 28 rows of smooth scales round the middle of the body. Praeanal scales scarcely enlarged. The adpressed hind limb reaches a little beyond the shoulder. 35—39 lamellae under the fourth toe. Tail one and a half the length of the body, scales on the beginning of the tail larger than on the posterior part of the body.

14. *Lygosoma Baudinii* D. & B.

Several specimens.

15. *Lygosoma emigrans* Lidth. (Plate 6, figs. 3, 3*a* and 3*b*).

One specimen very much resembling the specimens from the islands of Soemba and Groot-Bastaard [1]) but stouter and with a broader and shorter frontal shield. Our specimen from New Guinea has 17 rows of scales under the fourth toe, in this point agreeing with the Groot-Bastaard specimen, whilst those from the island of Soemba have 20 rows of scales. Our new specimen has its upper parts of a greyish brown colour, the sides of the head, of the belly and of the tail with black vermiculations; lower parts whitish.

16. *Lygosoma Muelleri* Schl. var.

One specimen, differing from Schlegel's description and figure in coloration, the upper part of head, body and tail being of a uniform violet-brown colour (chocolademilchfarbig) with a very slight indication of a lighter dorsal line, the lower parts being whitish; not a trace neither of a dark longitudinal band from eye to groin, nor of dark cross-bands on the tail. As to the arrangement of the scales, our specimen agrees with Schlegel's typical specimen, with the exception that it shows no suture between frontonasal and frontal shield, as both the praefrontals as well as frontal and frontonasal meet in one point. A specimen from Andai (New Guinea) collected by

1) Notes Leyden Museum, Vol. XVI, p. 125, 1895. In addition to the description in that volume, I now add a figure of one of the typical specimens from the island of Soemba.

von Rosenberg quite agrees with our new specimen in the absence of the suture between frontal and frontonasal, whilst in our other specimens of this species the length of this suture varies very much. In the collections of the Leyden Museum this species was till now represented by 6 specimens, viz. Schlegel's type from New Guinea, one specimen from Andai, two specimens from the Aroe-islands, one from the island of Ceram, and one specimen from the island of Wahaay (N. E. of Ceram). All these specimens show the typical coloration figured in Schlegel's Abbildungen pl. III.

17. *Tribolonotus novae-guineae* Schl.

Two specimens agreeing with Schlegel's types.

Ophidia.

1. *Python amethystinus* Schneid.

Three specimens.

2. *Chondropython viridis* Schl.

One specimen.

3. *Enygrus carinatus* Schneid.

Several specimens.

4. *Enygrus asper* Gthr.

Several adult and young specimens.

5. *Tropidonotus picturatus* Schl.

One specimen, with 15 rows of scales, the outer row as distinctly keeled as the others; 3 post- and 2 praeoculars, temporals 1 + 2, fourth and fifth labial entering the eye. Ventrals 154, a divided analshield, 88 pairs of subcaudals.

6. *Stegonotus modestus* Schl.

Fifteen specimens, agreeing with Boulenger's description of *S. reticulatus*, one specimen resembling the typical specimen of *S. modestus* in our Museum, and two specimens having »the rostral a little broader than deep, the portion visible from above measuring nearly half its distance from the frontal" and in this point agreeing with *S. cucullatus*, but having the third and the fourth instead of the fourth and the fifth upper labial in contact with the eye. When

we regard this last characteristic as a specific one, then these latter specimens cannot be arranged under the species *S. cucullatus*, but ought to represent a new species, which should be related to *S. cucullatus* in the same manner as *S. modestus* is related to *S. reticulatus*. In the view of gaining some information as to the importance of this characteristic as a specific one, I inspected the specimens of *Stegonotus* in our collections, viz.:

the typical specimen of *Stegonotus modestus* Schl. from Amboina;

two typical specimens of *S. lividus* D. & B. from the island of Samao (E. of Timor);

one specimen from the island of Boeroe;

two specimens from the island of Mefoor (N. of the Geelvinksbaai).

These two latter specimens, from the island of Mefoor, have the rostral a little broader than deep, the portion visible from above $^2/_5$ of its distance from the frontal and therefore belong to the group of *S. cucullatus*. In one of these specimens the third and fourth upper labial on the right side enter the eye, whilst on the left the fourth and fifth upper labial are in contact with the eye; in the second specimen just the contrary is to be seen, the fourth and fifth labial on the right and the third and fourth on the left side entering the eye. This proves that in these specimens it is of no great importance whether the third and fourth, or the fourth and fifth upper labial are in contact with the eye, and so those specimens, together with the two specimens from Astrolabe bay, must be arranged under the same species with *S. cucullatus*, which species only differs from *S. modestus* in the form of the rostral shield.

In the collections of the Leyden Museum the *Stegonotus*-species with the rostral much broader than deep are now represented by 5 specimens, viz.:

the typical specimen of *S. modestus* from Amboina;

one specimen from Boeroe;

two typical specimens of *S. lividus* from Samao;
one specimen from Astrolabe bay.

On examining these specimens we see that the two specimens of *S. lividus* have 2 praeocular shields, that the typical specimen of *S. modestus*, as well as the specimen from Astrolabe bay, has one praeocular, whilst in the Boeroe-specimen on both the sides the praeocular is fused with the loreal in one long shield. The length of the praefrontals is one and a half the length of the internasals, except in our specimen from Astrolabe bay, the praefrontals of which as well as its internasals measure 3 mm., moreover this specimen has one postocular on the left and two postoculars on the right side. The examination of these 5 specimens, all belonging to *S. modestus*, proves the great variability of this species, and though the series of 15 specimens of Astrolabe bay, agreeing in pholidosis of head and body with *S. reticulatus*, shows no such variation, I still hesitate in accepting *S. reticulatus* as a distinct species, and prefer bringing all *Stegonotus*-specimens with more than 100 subcaudals, with 175—212 ventrals and with two labials entering the eye, under one species, viz. *Stegonotus modestus* Schl.

7. *Dendrophis punctulatus* Gray.

Two specimens, without black stripe on the side of the head; upper lip, throat and anterior ventrals in one specimen yellow, in the other yellowish. V. 205, C. 157, and V. 196, C. 145.

8. *Dendrophis lineolatus* Hombr. & Jacq.

Three specimens, one of them having two praeocular shields. V. 187, C. 145; V. 185, C. 152 and V. 188, C. 123.

9. *Dipsadomorphus irregularis* Merr.

Several specimens.

10. *Distira cyanocincta* Daud.

One specimen.

11. *Micropechis ikaheka* Less.

Four specimens.

12. *Acanthophis antarcticus* Shaw.

Four specimens.

Batrachia.

1. *Rana papua* Less.
   Six specimens.
2. *Hyla dolichopsis* Cope.
   Several specimens.
3. *? Hyla impura* Ptrs. & Dor.
   A great many specimens greatly varying in coloration.

Tongue oval, nicked and free behind. Vomerine teeth in two small oval patches between the choanae. Head as broad as long, snout rounded, a little longer than the diameter of the eye, canthus rostralis distinct, loreal region slightly concave. Interorbital space broader than the upper eyelid; tympanum rather distinct, half the diameter of the eye. Fingers webbed at the base, no projecting rudiment of pollux, disks of fingers half as large as tympanum. Toes nearly entirely webbed. Tibio-tarsal articulation reaches the tip of the snout.

Skin smooth, feebly granulated on the belly and the underparts of the thighs.

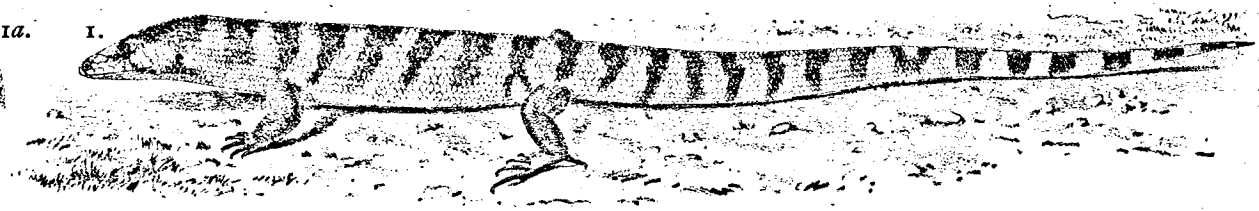
Leyden Museum, March 1897.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 6.

Figs. 1 and 1*a*. *Lygosoma tigrina*, n. sp. (nat. size).
Figs. 2 and 2*a*. *Lygosoma callistictum* Ptrs. var. (nat. size).
Figs. 3, 3*a* and 3*b*. *Lygosoma emigrans* Lidth, one of the typical specimens from the island of Soemba (fig. 3 nat. size, 3*a* and 3*b* × 2).

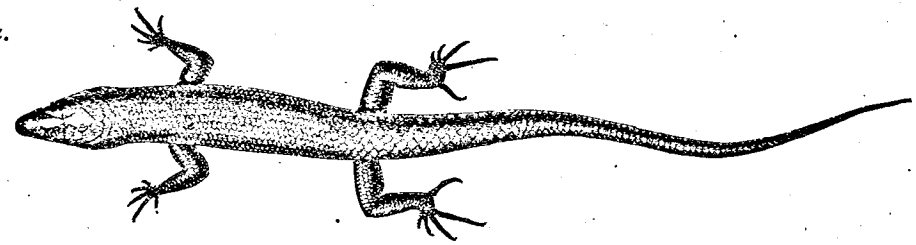
1a.

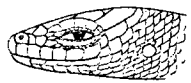
1.



2a.

2

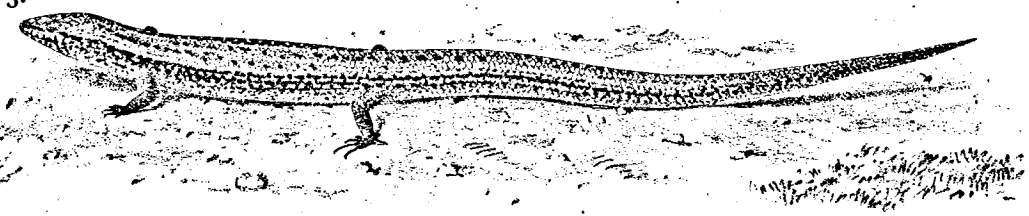




3a.

3.

3b.



R. Raar ad nat. del. et lith.

P. W. M. Trap impr.

1. Lygosoma tigrina *Lidth.* 2. Lygosoma callistictum *Ptrs.* var.

3. Lygosoma emigrans *Lidth.*